TO THE

STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCI

Annual Report, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

I.

There occurred during the year 1898, in my portion of the Startforth Sanitary District, 45 deaths, giving a death-rate of 15·65 per 1000 of population, t census 1891.

This shows a considerable increase of the death-rate compared with last y when it was only 11·26 per 1000 inhabitants. The increase is chiefly due to dea among old people, and particularly from diseases of the heart.

The infant mortality is the same as last year—nine deaths having bee registered in children under 12 months old.

On the other hand, there was a slight decrease in the deaths ascribed to Lung Disease—six deaths only having been recorded, of which only one was caused by Pulmonary Consumption, a very satisfactory feature.

The particulars of registered deaths are as follows :—

Pulmonary Complaints	6 Cases (one Phthisis)
Heart Disease	11 ,,
Diarrhœa	1 Case
Typhoid Fever	2 Cases
All Other Diseases	25 ,,
Total	45 Cases

The zymotic death-rate was a little higher during the year 1898. It will be seen that one death occurred from Diarrhœa and two from Typhoid Fever, giving a mortality rate of 1·07 per 1000 from Infectious Diseases.

The number of Births registered during the year was 75, this being a decrease by 5, compared with the two last years.

II.

The health of the district during the past year has been fairly good. There wer no very serious outbreaks of disease, either endemic or epidemic.

Three cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified to me during the year. One from Boldron, and two from the village of Lartington. Another case apparently occur

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30135989

at Barningham, but was not notified to me. The case in Boldron was not of local or having been imported; the two cases in Lartington both occurred in the same fami father and daughter—and the origin of the disease was traced to the father having ca the infection from working in the installation of a new drainage and sewage systen the Hall of the village.

During the months of November and December Measles were somewh prevalent in the district, notably in Lartington village, and it was thought advisable t close the school there during December. The disease was probably imported t Lartington by children attending the Roman Catholic School at Barnard Castle: severa adults were also affected with the trouble: luckily there were no deaths therefrom.

There was also a mild outbreak of Measles in the Wycliffe district, in the se quarter of the year.

Diarrhœa was slightly prevalent during the summer months, and proved fat one instance.

No other infectious diseases occurred in the district.

III.

The sanitary condition of the district was, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. Th principal complaint requiring attention was in connection with the water supply of farms and villages. After some difficulty, a new well was sunk at Timpton Hill Farm, with a satisfactory result. The water supply of the villages of Bowes and Boldron was found to be entirely inadequate, and steps are being taken to remedy this defect.

I had during the year to inspect several houses in Startforth where the privy accommodation was unsatisfactory, and recommended in each case the introduction of earth closets, and a regular cleaning of them at the expense of the Council; the latter recommendation was complied with.

A good many sanitary improvements were undertaken in different parts of the district in connection with sewage-disposal and drainage of buildings.

As Pulmonary Consumption is now considered to be mainly produced by the consumption of infected food, especially milk supplied by tuberculous cows, I should like the Council to adopt a system for the inspection of all farms, dairies, and cow-sheds, with a view, if possible, to lessen the occurrence and ravages of that disease.

No nuisances have been recorded from offensive trades or factories.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED H. SEVIER, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

W. R. ATKINSON, PRINTER, BARNARD CASTLE.